



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
SPEAKER

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May 1, 2012

David Samson
Chairman
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
225 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10003

Dear Mr. Samson:

It is with great concern that I forward this correspondence to you, given the heightened public focus upon the impending toll increase scheduled to take effect later this year and the overall toll hike projections through 2015.

As the leader of the New Jersey General Assembly, it is incumbent upon me to speak on behalf of the already burdened commuters who use Port Authority of New York and New Jersey bridges and tunnels.

Recent reports that characterize Port Authority as a "challenged and dysfunctional" organization are troubling. I note that this bi-state mega-organization got out-of-control through no doing of your own, but rather through decades of poor management, poor judgment and poor decision-making.

The Port Authority is of enormous impact to our regional economy, and I intrinsically understand its relevance to the State of New Jersey along with our workforce and our families.

Recent headlines decrying and uncovering unconscionable spending practices are an embarrassment to us all – particularly for our state, where unemployment continues to hover at 9 percent and we are struggling to stabilize our local economies.

It is my hope that you as Chairman and the Commissioners and your management team will take pause to prioritize first the interests of those toll payers, most particularly the working men and women who commute and are confronted with an annualized expenditure of as much as \$3,120 to cross the Hudson River.

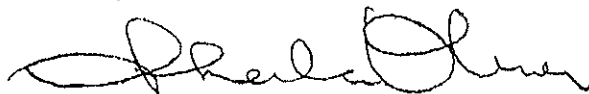
For many families, that's more than they pay in state income taxes, or almost half a year's property tax bill in New Jersey, half a year's college tuition for a student, prescription drug coverage for a family that has no health insurance or several month's rent for tenants in our state.

I have heard from many constituents and small business owners who rely on crossing the river to earn a livelihood.

While recognizing the complexity of what you are confronted with, along with the limited choices that seemingly are available to ensure the fiscal sustainability of the Authority and its future, please know that from this point forward, I expect that the leadership of PANYNJ will commit to a broadened and expanded external audit that will allow for corrective actions agency-wide to put spending practices in check.

Given that level of external examination by an outside validator, perhaps the Commissioners can rethink the plans for toll increases through 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheila Oliver', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sheila Y. Oliver
Speaker
New Jersey General Assembly